

**CHARLES TAYLOR MASTER
MECHANIC'S AWARD**

**Fairbanks Flight Standards District
Office Honoree 1997**

WALTER E. EBERHART



EBERHART, Walter, E. (Walt)

Walter Eberhart was born on an Idaho homestead in 1920 and was raised on cattle ranch along with five brothers and five sisters. He stayed on the ranch until the outbreak of World War II.

In 1942, Walt joined the Army Air Corps and served in India as a Parts Supply Sergeant. Following the war, he returned to Idaho, but stayed in aviation.

Walt came to Alaska on a PanAm DC-3, which landed at Ladd Field, now Fort Wainwright in 1947. He married Dorothy Herning in 1948 and the couple homesteaded along Chena Hot Springs Road where they raised two sons.

In 1959, Walt specialized in aircraft wood structures for Consolidated Specialty. He built aircraft skis, rebuilt and refurbished Norseman's, Lockheed Vegas, Gullwing Stinsons, and maintained F-27's and DC-3 aircraft. He also recovered many aircraft from the outlying areas throughout Alaska.

Following a short term of employment with Wien, Walt went to work for Alaska Airlines where he remained for 17 years. His career at Alaska Airlines included maintaining the company's line of Douglas, Convair and Boeing aircraft and the Lockheed Hercules. Walt lost his wife Dorothy, in a tragic accident in 1969.

He retired from Alaska Airlines in 1976, but has remained active in aviation. In the past 20 years, Walt has given his time to the Aviation Heritage Museum in Anchorage, where he has restored a Curtiss Robin, a Taylorcraft, a Cessna Bobcat and his favorite, a Norseman.

Walt married Mary Ann Crutchfield in 1986. These days Walt can often be found at his son David's lodge near the old homestead. His son Wayne is employed with the Federal Aviation Administration in Anchorage.